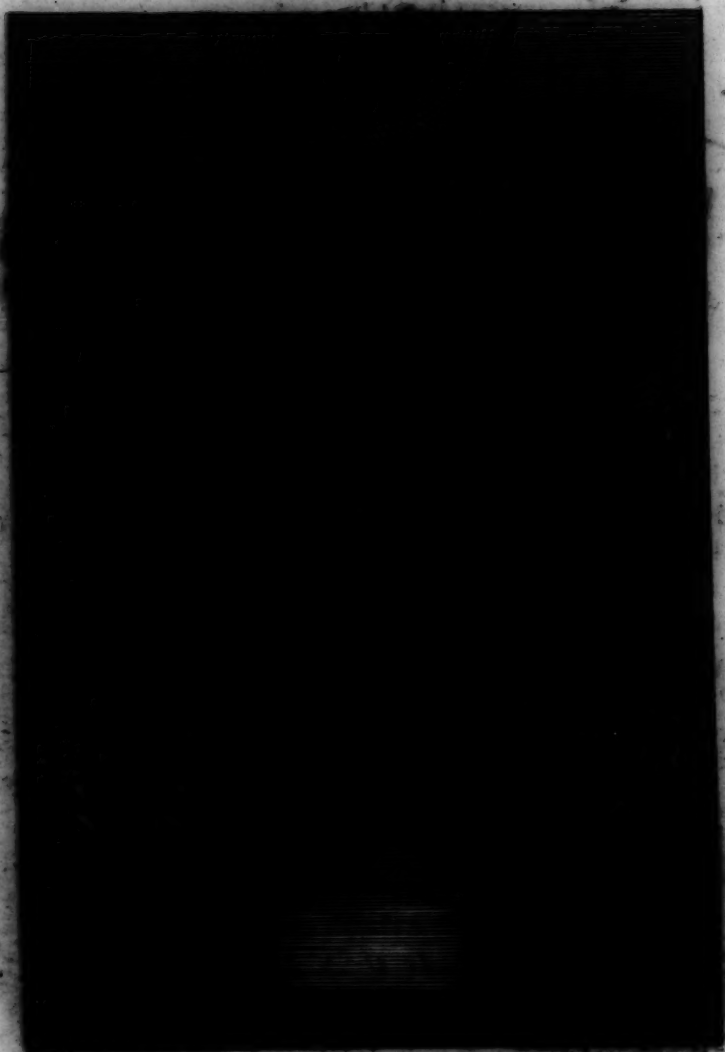


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An inside View of the House of Commons.

THE
Infant Lawyer;
or the
GOVERNMENT of ENGLAND.
Explained to the capacity of
Youth.

This is a proper
NEW YEARS GIFT
 from a Father who wishes his Son to have a clear
 Idea of the **GOVERNMENT** of the Country in which he
 lives, and also from those who intend their Sons for
 the Bar, or an Attorney's Office, as the nature of the
 several Courts and Issues of Law are particularly
 described in the most simple and easy language.

BY A LAWYER.

LONDON:

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THE
INFANT LAWYER, &c.

Of the GOVERNMENT of ENGLAND.

ENGLAND is a monarchy, that is governed by one person, who is called

A KING.

HIS TITLE.

By the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, *Defender of the Faith.*

Defender of the Faith, although used before by the Kings of England

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was

INFANT LAWYER.

was confirmed to be their right in consequence of a book written by Henry VIIIth. against a man of the name of *Lutber*, who opposed the catholic religion.

PERSON.

The King of England is crowned, an honor which the kings of Spain, Portugal, and other kings have not. At his coronation he is anointed with oil, a custom which has lasted a thousand years.

Of the life and safety of his person the laws of England make it the greatest of all crimes only to imagine his death, or to kill any of his judges, when performing their duty, is equally as bad, as they are supposed

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supposed to represent him, and doing his business.—This crime is called *High Treason*.

OFFICE.

He promises at his coronation to protect the clergy, to preserve his own rights, and to do justice, love mercy, keep peace, &c.

SUPERIORITY.

Allows of none superior to himself. He is the person from whom all justice is derived. He may, if he chooses, sit in any of the courts, as the English Kings formerly did.

POWER.

The King has certain powers, or more commonly called *privileges*,

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placed in him, in order that he may the better perform the duties of his office. He may himself alone, without the assistance of *Parliament*, (a word that will be explained in it's proper place) *declare war against other countries, make peace, send and receive Ambassadors*, (people who are sent from one court to another) *make treaties* (that is, agreements) *with foreign kingdoms*, besides many other things.

He may, if he chooses, *adjourn the Parliament*, (that is, put off the sitting for a certain time) or break it up entirely, which is called *dissolving it*. He alone has the appointment of all land and sea officers, the choice of magistrates and bishops, people high in the church, and also many other privileges.

DOMINIONS.

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DOMINIONS.

The dominions of the King of England are *this Country, Scotland, and Ireland*, with several other places.

REVENUES.

His revenues mean his yearly profits. They are perhaps greater than any other king in Europe.

THE RESPECT SHEWN TO HIM.

No king has more respect paid him. Those people who present any address or paper to him kneel on one knee. All persons (except the Prince of Wales) stand without their hats before him.

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THE CROWN.

By the laws of England the King has a right to the crown, and is immediately succeeded at his death by his son, or next relation, without waiting for the consent of the people.

If the deceased King (that is, the King who dies) has left no sons, then the crown goes to his *eldest daughter*. For want of daughter then to his *brother*, and for want of brother then to his *sister*.

MINORITY.

This means the time before the King grows up to be a man; during which period persons are appointed as his masters to instruct him. These are generally chosen from among the first people in the country.

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ABSENCE.

If the King go to any other country, then some person or persons are appointed to act in his place during his absence.

INCAPACITY.

This means when the king is not able or capable, by reason of *disease*, *weakness*, or *old age*, to do his duty. In that case a person is chosen to act for him, and he is called a *Regent*.

THE QUEEN.

The King's Wife. During the life of the King she has as many privileges as any Queen in Europe. She is thought the *second great Person* in
in

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in the kingdom, and it is one of the greatest crimes that can be committed even to think of putting her to death, and is also called *High Treason*. There is as much respect paid to her as to the King.

OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KING.

THE ELDEST SON,

From the day of his birth is called *Prince of Wales*, a title that was first given by king Edward I. to his eldest son. For the Welch nation being unwilling to submit to strangers, the King ordered that his Queen should be delivered of her first child in Caernarvon castle in Wales, and then asked the Welch if they would be content

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content to subject themselves to one of their own nation, to which they consented. The child was then created *Prince of Wales*.

The king's eldest son is also by right Duke of Cornwall, Earl of Chester, and has many other titles.

DIGNITY.

The Prince in our law is reputed as the same person with the King. To imagine his death is made *High Treason*, and in almost every case is as much respected as either the King or Queen.

THE YOUNGER SONS.

The King's younger sons are created *Dukes* or *Earls* of any places he thinks

thinks proper. They are all as soon as born considered *Counsellors of State*, that is, persons, when they grow up, who may be consulted upon business that respect the nation.

To all the King's children belong the titles of *Royal Highness*. In their presence all persons are to appear without their hats, and kneel whenever they are permitted to kiss their hands.

The King's daughters are stiled *Princesses*, the eldest of whom is called the *Princess Royal*.

Having now done with the Royal Family, we shall begin to treat of that part of our Government called

ECCLESIASTICAL.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

This means that part which respects the Religion of the country; and the first great men that attract our attention are the two *Archbishops*, or, as they are sometimes called, *Primates*. They are at the head of the Church. One called *Archbishop of Canterbury*, the other *Archbishop of York*, two cities in England. They have great power or what we called before, *privileges*. Under them are twenty four

BISHOPS.

These are persons who rank next to the *Archbishops* in consequence. In each city in England there is a church, much larger than our common churches, called a *Cathedral*, to which

which belongs a *Bishop*, who is considered head of the place, and has the conducting of every thing there respecting the Church. The greatest among them is the *Bishop of London*, next to him the *Bishop of Durham*, and then the *Bishop of Winchester*. The others rank according to the time of their *consecration*, that is, the particular time they were first made Bishops. They are all *Barons* and *Peers*, and have a right of sitting in the *House of Lords*, a place that will be hereafter described. In order to assist the Bishops there are persons called

DEANS;

Who have under their direction Clergymen, intitled

PRESBENDARIES,

PREBENDARIES,

or

CANONS.

These are consulted when necessary by the Bishops, and when a Bishop dies they are ordered by the King to elect another.

Next in the management of our church are Clergymen, called

ARCHDEACONS.

Whose business is to reform abuses that may have crept into the church, and do any other things that the Bishop may desire. Then come the

C**PARISH**

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PARISH PRIESTS,

OR

RECTORS.

Their office is to do duty in the parish churches, to see that the *Parishioners* (people that live in the parish) attend public worship, to marry persons, to bury, to christen children, and many other things. Last of all are the

CURATES.

These assist for certain salaries, the Rectors in the performance of their business.

There are other people though not Clergymen, who are employed about the church. The first is the

CHURCH-

CHURCH-WARDEN.

Whose office is to see that the church is in good repair, and that every thing is fit for divine worship. The next and last is the

CLERK;

Who is chosen by the parson. He is occasionally to read aloud in the church, and to give out and sing the psalms and hymns.

We now come to one of the most important parts of our government, namely,

THE PARLIAMENT;

Which is a meeting composed of the first men in the nation. It consists of two parts, one called the

SENATE

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HOUSE

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HOUSE OF LORDS, the other the HOUSE OF COMMONS. They are of great antiquity, and cannot open their first meeting without the King is present, or some other person to represent him. Their entire business is to consult and advise with one another on affairs of the nation. To make new laws, if necessary, and destroy of the old ones, those that are found to be of no use.

The parliament is summoned to meet in the following manner.

The King issues his writ, that is, his order to the *Lords Spiritual*, (the *Archbishops* and *Bishops* we before mentioned) and the *Lords Temporal* (meaning those Lords who do not belong to the Church) desiring them to appear at

such

at

a certain

a certain time and place, for the purpose of giving their advice in certain important affairs respecting the Church and State, &c. A similar order is also issued, directed to the Sheriff (a person who will be explained hereafter) that he may summon the people to choose whom they please, to represent them in the House of Commons. Those who have the power of choosing, are called *Electors*, and they must be *Freeholders* (that is, possessors of freehold land) to the value of forty shillings annually, or else they have not any right to interfere in the business.

Before a man can sit in parliament, he must be of the age of twenty-one years, and possess property in land to a considerable amount. When in par-

himself he cannot be arrested, that is, his person cannot be taken for debt as others may. Neither can his servants in conducting their matter to the House of Commons, or from it, be hindered in so doing by any person to whom they are indebted. These are called *privileges*, to which the members and their attendants are entitled.

The place where they generally, and indeed always meet, is at Westminster, although the King, if he chooses, may call them together in whatever place he thinks proper. The Lords sit in a room by themselves, and the Commons in another, which was formerly a chapel called St. Stephen's.

THE MANNER OF SITTING IN THE
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The King whenever he comes (which is now but at the opening of parliament, or the passing of bills) is placed at the upper end of the room in a very grand chair, which is called a *chair of state*, having a cloth of state over his head. On his right hand is a seat for the *Prince of Wales*, on his left one for the *Duke of York*, the King's second son. Further on his right, on a form, are the two *Archbishops*, which we mentioned before. Below these, on another form, are the *Bishops of London, Durham, and Winchester*. Then upon other forms on the same side, are all the other *Bishops* placed according to the time of their consecra-
tion,

tion, which, as we said before, means the particular time of their first being made Bishops. On the King's left hand upon forms are placed the *Lord Chancellor*, a man of great consequence in the state, and the head of a court which we shall hereafter describe. Also the King's *Treasurer*, *President of the King's Council*, and *Lord Privy Seal*, men of great learning, and whom the King consults on weighty affairs respecting the country. Others sit according to the time they first came to their titles; and in different parts of the house. There are various clerks and people appointed to do certain duties. One called *Gentleman Usher*, another a *Serjeant at Mace*, whose business is always to attend the *Chancellor*.

When

When the King is present, he always wears the crown upon his head, and none of the Lords are covered. When he is absent the Lords at their entrance bow to the chair as if he was present.

THE MANNER OF THE MEMBERS SITTING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Members here sit promiscuously, that is, without any order or ceremony. There is a person who has the conduct of the whole, called the *Speaker*. He is the only one who is fixed in a particular place in the House. He sits in a large chair with clerks before him, and the Members to the right and left of him. They wear no robes as the Lords do, but whatever they think proper, such as they commonly appear in the streets

and

and among their friends. This is certainly unbecoming the dignity of so great a place, and ought to be remedied.

The time of their sitting is seldom before four o'clock in the afternoon, although the original intention was for them to meet early in the morning.

When the time is come which was fixed by the King's writ, or order, for the parliament to assemble, the King usually appears in person in the House of Lords, with his crown on his head, cloathed in the most superb and elegant robes. He then makes a speech, telling them the cause of his calling them together, and the necessity of their doing such and such things, which he mentions.

mentions. While he is speaking, the Lord Chancellor stands behind his chair, and the *Members of the House of Commons* at the same time bare at the bar. When the King has done, the Commons return to their own house, and choose from among themselves a person whom they call a *Speaker*, and whom we mentioned before. After he is appointed, each Member used to take the oath of *allegiance* (that is, proper obedience to the King) and also that of *supremacy*. This means that they will support this country against the power of the Pope, who was formerly considered supreme over all kingdoms, but which power, with respect to England, was thrown off by Henry VIII. Since that time it is usual for Members of the House, of Commons

Commons, and other persons entering into professions, and into many public offices, to swear that they acknowledge our superiority over the authority of the Pope. They now take new oaths appointed by an Act of Parliament passed during the reign of William and Mary.

The power, or as we said before, the *privileges* of both Houses of Parliament, are very great. They have not only the power of making laws, but putting a stop to those that exist. This is called *repealing* them. The Lords have a right when they are sick, or when from any other cause they cannot appear, to appoint others to act for them, who are called their *proxies*. So that it is thus supposed that

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that they are always present, doing their duty.

The Commons also have the power of making and repealing laws. For levying any money on the people (that is, compelling them to give such and such money for the use of the state) the bill begins in the House of Commons, and not in the other house. This is called a *money bill*, and all that come under that title must originate in the first place, as the Members are supposed to be the people of England, who are alone to advance what sums that may be wanted. There are many other privileges which belong exclusively to the House of Commons.

THE MANNER OF DEBATING AND
PASSING BILLS.

A Bill is a kind of an Address, pointing out the necessity of enacting (that is, making) some new law. This may be proposed by any one of the Members, either in the *House of Lords* or *House of Commons*. If in the latter it is presented by the Speaker, and when read, it is either at once rejected or else allowed to be debated, and a certain time appointed for the second reading, after which it must be rejected, or ordered to be considered by a certain number of the House, called a *Committee*. After they have considered and amended it, and twice read it two different days, then it is *engrossed*, that is, written fair on parchment,

ment, and afterwards read a third time. The Speaker then demands whether it shall pass into a law or not, when the majority (that is, the greater number of the Members) determines.

At the time a Bill is sent by the Commons up to the Lords, it is usual for several Members to attend. When they come up to the bar of the House of Lords, the Member who has it, makes three bows, and delivers it to the Lord Chancellor, who comes down from his seat for that purpose.

An almost similar ceremony is used when a Bill is sent from the Lords to the Commons.

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When any one in the House of Commons wishes to speak on a Bill, he stands up uncovered, and directs his speech only to the Speaker. If what he says be completely answered by another, he is not allowed to speak again on the same business that day, to prevent the whole time being taken up by the conversation of two people. This is not attended to when the whole House is formed into a Committee (which we explained before) for then every Member may speak as often as he thinks proper.

If in either House any one speaks improper words, he is called to the bar, where he is sometimes compelled to go down on his knees, and in that situation receives a reprimand from

from the Speaker. If the offence be very great, then he is sent to the Tower.

The Members give their assent or dissent to the passing of a Bill, by saying, *yea*, or *no*. The first pronounced aloud by all those who wish it to pass, the last by those who do not. When it is doubtful which is the greater number, then the House *divides*, that is, one set or the other go out, that each may be reckoned.

The Lords in the other House give their votes by saying, *content* or *not content*.

If a Bill pass both the *House of Commons* and *House of Lords*, then it

is brought up with others that have also passed the two houses, to the King, who comes again to the Lords with his crown on his head, dressed in his robes as before, and being seated in the same chair of state in which he first opened the parliament, the clerk reads the title of each Bill, and another clerk by the desire of the King, pronounces his Majesty's assent or dissent, one by one as they are read.

Sometimes this is done when the King is not present, by another empowered by his Majesty to act for him.

When all those things for which the parliament was summoned, have been gone through and finished, then
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the King, adjourns, prorogues, or dissolves it.

The first means that the House should suspend their meetings to some other day. The second, that they should end the session entirely for that year; and the third, that the parliament should be dissolved, that is, broken up, and that a new one should be again formed in the same manner as before described. The parliament has a right to adjourn itself, but when it is prorogued or dissolved, then his Majesty most commonly does it in person.

After having fully and clearly explained that most important part of the English government, called the Parliament,

Parliament, we shall now give the reader a description of our courts of justice, and the first that offers itself is the

KING'S BENCH.

This court is called the King's Bench, because in former times the Kings used frequently to sit there. It is there that the King may try his subjects for any crime against the state or himself, or any private dispute respecting the payment of money between one person and another, may also be tried there, and its power is very considerable.

In this court four judges are appointed to sit for the dispatch of business. The first is styled *Lord Chief Justice*

Justice of the King's Bench, and his place is given to him by his Majesty. The rest are also appointed by him, and hold their places by *Letters Patent*, that is, they cannot be taken away from them. These judges have regular yearly salaries paid to them by the King.

All young gentlemen, when they are called to the bar, are allowed to practise in this court, the power, or what is sometimes called *jurisdiction*, of which extends all over England.

THE COURT OF CHANCERY.

This court is called a Court of Equity, because in its determinations, equity and good conscience are blended with

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with the rules of law. It is intended to check, or what is termed, to *mitigate* the severity of our other courts.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR,

Is the only judge of this court. He holds the highest office of any in England under his Majesty.

MASTERS OF CHANCERY.

The Chancellor has twelve assistants that are so called. The first of these is the

MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

This is a place of great dignity, and is in the gift of the King during his pleasure.

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The Court of Chancery is always open for the performance of business, when the other courts only sit at certain stated times in the year, called *Term-Time*. So that any person oppressed at whatever period, may have redress in this court, although the others may be closed.

The next court for the execution of the laws is the

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

So called, in consequence of formerly this court alone being intended for deciding any matter or plea between subject and subject.

The chief justice in this court, is called *Lord Chief-Justice of the Common Pleas,*

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Place, or Common Bench. He holds his place by *Letters Patent*, which we before described, and so do the other inferior judges, of which there are three.

Causes between one man and another are tried here, and so they are in the Court of King's Bench, but those in which the King is concerned are never tried in the first court, but most generally in the latter.

Those that plead or do business in the Common Pleas, are what are called *Serjeants at Law*, and none else can.

There are many clerks and officers belong to this court.

The

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The next and last is the

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

COURT OF EXCHEQUER.

BUT HIS PLACE SITS IN THE COURT.

- Here are tried all causes that respect the King's Treasury, in which the money that enables the government to proceed with the business of the nation is kept, and any account that in the least concerns him. This court was at first confined to this kind of business, but of late years, any person may proceed in it for the recovery of any debt that may be owing to him, as in the other courts.

In the Exchequer are six judges, the chief of which is called

CHIEF JUSTICE

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CHANCELLOR

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

But he never appears in the court, having other matters of great consequence to attend to. The others all do, the first of whom is styled

LORD CHIEF BARON.

His office is also held by *Patent*, and the other judges are all called *Barons of the Exchequer*.

Having now given a brief account of the government of all England in general, we shall next describe the particular GOVERNMENT OF COUNTIES, CITIES, BOROUGHs, and VILLAGES.

JUSTICES

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

For the management of each county, the King appoints a person of considerable consequence, an inhabitant of the place, to preserve the peace and good order of the county. He is called *Justice of the Peace*, and his duty is to call before him, examine and commit to prison all thieves, rogues, vagabonds, and all others that occasion a breach of the peace, and there to remain until they are brought up to the

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QUARTER SESSIONS.

These are meetings every three months at some principal town in the county, composed of the several jus-

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tices of the adjoining counties. Upon examination, if it be thought that any of the prisoners are guilty of *treason*, *murder*, or any other capital offence, then they are immediately committed to prison, in order to take their trial at the next *Affizes* (particular times in the year when the judges belonging to the courts at Westminster come down to the country for the purpose of trying the prisoners.) For the more easy and better execution of the laws, the King once a year nominates, or appoints for each county, a person called

A Sheriff.

Whose duty it is, among other things, to execute whatever orders the King transmits to him, to arrest

to all writs directed to him, that issue or come from the courts at Westminster, and to accompany all those unfortunate people who are sentenced to death; for it is the Sheriff's business to see it done, in which he is assisted by the *under Sheriff, Clerks, Bailiffs, Constables, and Gaolers*, all under his command.

There are several other places of trust in each county, in order to perform the necessary business.

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CITIES, BOROUGHS, AND VILLAGES.

Every city in England is governed like a little kingdom of itself. The inhabitants choose from among themselves twelve persons whom they call

allermen, and one of these is appointed head over the others, and he beats the name of *Mayor*. He is considered a kind of judge over the whole place, and he has a power of trying, in his own court, almost every offence, but the cause may be moved by the parties to any of the higher courts at Westminster.

Boroughs.

These are nothing more than large villages with such and such privileges granted to them by the King, and they are thus called *incorporated*. In that case they are governed pretty nearly in the same manner as the cities and towns.

VILLAGES.

VILLAGES.

In these are appointed persons called *Petty Constables*, chosen every year for the purpose of keeping the peace, and securing all those that are riotous, or suspected of being offenders, and bringing them before the next Justice, under whose controul they are.

OF THE LAWS OF ENGLAND.

OF THE COMMON LAW.

The Common Law of England means the common customs of the kingdom that have by length of time obtained the force of laws.

Besides the common law, there are in various parts of England cus-

toms

toms and common practices which have the force of common law, among those people to whose property they belong.

STATUTE LAW.

Where the common law is silent, then comes in the *Statute Law*. This is made by the King, by and with the advice of his parliament.

All trials of common and statute law are by *twelve men*, called a *jury*. These are summoned by the sheriff to meet, and while the lawyers are pleading on both sides in open court before the judges, these twelve men stand by, and hear all that is said and produced on either part, and may ask what

what questions they please of the witnesses. When all the witnesses are examined, one of the judges briefly states all that has past, pointing out to them those parts that are according to law, and what are not, after which they retire by themselves, and until they all agree upon the business, they are not allowed to have any meat, drink, fire, nor candle. When they are agreed they come back into court, and the foreman, who is so called from his being placed first on the list of the twelve jurymen, declares the opinion of all the jury, for every one of them must agree, and the sentence

is more generally called by his Royal Charter, granted to various cities in England, the magistrates have a power to

Civil Law.

When the **Common and Statute Law** takes no notice, then comes in the **Civil Law**. This is made use of in all courts respecting the church, which are called *Ecclesiastical Courts*. In every thing respecting wills of people deceased, sometimes called *Testaments*, the civil law is referred to, also in all things where the church is concerned, and in affairs immediately relating to the King's fleets and other vessels.

By-Laws.

By the King's permission, or what is more generally called by his *Royal Charter*, granted to various cities in England, the magistrates have a power

to make such laws, as may be thought of service to the inhabitants, but, at the same time, they must not go to oppose the laws of the land, and they have no force, but in the particular place they are made.

FOREST LAWS.

The *Forest Laws* are peculiar laws, and differ from the common law of England. Our forests in this country are exceedingly ancient, and, in former times, offences committed in any of them were punished by the King in the most severe manner. But in these days punishments are more lenient for offences committed in any of the King's forests, and they all come under the correction of the *Forest Laws*.

MARTIAL

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Martial Law.

This means that law which depends upon the King's will and pleasure in time of war, during which, in some particular alarming cases of danger, he orders out the military, and when martial law is proclaimed, the country is then under the government of the soldiers. This is never done but in the greatest necessity.

OF THOSE LAWS RESPECTING WOMEN.

Respecting the women of England, there are many things of considerable consequence in our laws and customs. Women in this country, with all their property, so soon as they are married, are wholly at the will and disposal of the husband. If

If any goods of property of any kind are given to a married woman, they immediately become her husband's, and she cannot part with them or sell them without his consent.

The wife can make no contract, that is, agreement, without her husband's consent.

The law of England supposes the power the husband has over his wife, is as great as over his child, and therefore he must answer for his wife's faults. If she wrong another with her tongue, or in any other way, he must make satisfaction.

So the law makes it as high a crime, and allots the same punishment to a woman who kills her husband, as to a

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woman who kills her father or mother, and it is called *petit-treason*.

The woman upon marriage loses not only the power over her property, but also her name—for ever after she uses her husband's surname, and her own is wholly laid aside, which is not the case in many other countries.

The wife, after her husband's death, having nothing settled on her before marriage, which is called her *jointure*, may lawfully lay claim to a *third part* of his yearly rents of land during her life, and within the City of London may take a *third part* of all her husband's property in money, goods, and all property except land, and which is called *personal property*.

As

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As the wife takes her husband's name, so likewise does she partake of his condition. If he be a *Duke*, she is called a *Duchess*, and if he be a *Knight*, she is called a *Lady*.

By the laws of England, married persons are so fast joined that they cannot be wholly parted by any agreement between themselves, but only by sentence of the judges. The wife is considered so much the same with her husband, that she cannot be produced as a witness for or against him.

OF CHILDREN.

The condition of children in England is very different from that in other countries.

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As husbands have more absolute authority over their wives, so fathers have a greater authority over their children.

Fathers may give, if they please, all their property to one child alone, and none to the rest. This consideration ought to keep children obedient to their fathers.

By the *common law* (which was before explained) in England, children at certain ages are enabled to perform certain acts.

A son, at the age of fourteen, may by will dispose of goods and all his property, excepting lands, which he cannot take possession of until he arrives at the age of twenty-one.

At

At the age of fifteen, he may be sworn to his *allegiance* to the King, that is, to be true and faithful to him.

At twenty-one, he is said to be at full age, may then do as he thinks proper with either his goods, money, which is called *personal property*, or his lands, which is called *real property*.

OF SERVANTS.

The present condition of servants in England is much more comfortable than it was in former times. They were then considered very little better than slaves, but now they have the power of appealing to the laws of their country for redress, in case of their being injured.

As soon as to take away the life of a
 mother is considered a very high crime,
 and is called *petty-treason*, and is pu-
 nished with death.

There are no slaves permitted to live
 in England. A foreign slave brought over
 into this country, is, upon his landing,
 immediately free from slavery, and en-
 joys the same protection of the laws
 equally with us all.

Of the PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED IN
 ENGLAND.

All crimes in England that reach the
 life of a man are either *High-treason*,
Petty-treason, *Rape*, *Murder*, *Felony*, to-
 gether with some others.

Some

Some high treasons are much more heinous and odious than others, yet the same punishment is inflicted by the law for them all.

A person guilty of this crime, suffers death. All his lands and goods whatsoever are forfeited. His wife shall lose some of her rights, and his children all their right of inheriting from him, or any other of his ancestors.

Coming of away is considered high-treason, and consequently punished with death.

Petty-treason, which is when a servant kills his master or mistress, or a wife kills her husband, is punished with death.

Felony,

Felony, which is next in degree to *petit-treason*, is punished with death. There are some felonies however, in which the criminal is only marked with a red hot iron on the hand.

Great Larceny is when the goods stolen exceed the value of one shilling, and the punishment is death.

Petty Larceny is when the goods stolen is under the value of one shilling, and the punishment is generally whipping, or some other punishment inflicted on the person.

Perjury, swearing what is not true, is punished in general with the pillory.

Forgery,

Forgery, which is forging, or imitating the name of another person, is a very great offence, and almost always punished with death.

For striking any person in any of the King's Courts, whereby blood is spilt, the punishment is, that the criminal shall have his right hand cut off.

When any person kills himself, it is called *Felo de se*, and the body is interred without the usual burial service repeated, as is done to all christians. There is also a stake driven through the corpse.

INNS OF COURT.

These are places wherein the Students study the laws of the kingdom, to render them capable of practising in the courts of law at Westminster, which we have before particularly mentioned. They are four in number, namely, the

INNER TEMPLE,

MIDDLE TEMPLE,

LINCOLN'S INN,

and

GRAY'S INN.

The other Inns are these.

THE TWO SERJEANTS' INNS,
and eight Inns of Chancery,
called

CLIFFORD'S

CLIFFORD'S INN,

SYMOND'S INN,

CLEMENT'S INN,

NEW INN,

LYON'S INN,

FURNIVAL'S INN,

STAPLE'S INN,

BERNARD'S INN,

and

THAVIE'S INN.

The Inns of Courts are governed by what are called *Masters, Principals, Benchers, Stewards*, and other Officers, and have public Halls for Exercises, Readings, and Argument. These the Students must attend for a certain number of years before they can be admitted to plead at the Bar.

We

We now bring our little volume to a conclusion, trusting that we have faithfully performed during our progress what we promised at our first setting out, namely, to treat the several subjects intended to be explained, in such a plain and simple manner, as to make them perfectly easy to be understood by those youths who are to be brought up to the profession. In doing this, we flatter ourselves we shall be of no inconsiderable service to them, as our labours are intended principally to clear the way for a more extensive investigation of the different matters herein contained, and thereby be the means of rendering the perusal of *Blackstone's Commentaries*, more beneficial to the youthful Reader than formerly.

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